

leading role in shaping positive values in young people's lives. Many large and small businesses of Southeastern Tulare County have met a vital community need by offering to employ Woodlake Got-A-Job youth in a variety of work opportunity programs. The community of Woodlake participates by donating supplies and money to the Got-A-Job Program in support of their youth.

The Woodlake Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program offers job skills training and confidence building exercises to teenagers. The guidance and teachings offered by this organization improves the economic health of the community and fosters a positive work ethic in tomorrow's leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Woodlake Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program. The Got-A-Job Summer Youth Program's commitment and dedication to the youth of Southeastern Tulare County is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Woodlake Got-A-Job Program many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. MANCINI

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great community leader and close friend, James J. Mancini of Long Beach Township. On Friday, September 11, 1998, some of us will "roast" Jim by poking fun at some of his more colorful characteristics. But, make no mistake, when it comes down to representing the people of Ocean County, Jim Mancini is very serious, very sincere, and very successful.

First elected to the Ocean County Board of Freeholders in 1982, Jim has proved to be a strong advocate of senior citizens, veterans and the disabled, and has improved transportation programs and library services.

With the largest senior population in the State, Freeholder Mancini, who also is the long-time Mayor of Long Beach Township, serves as the Chairman of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services. A veteran of World War II, Freeholder Mancini's work with the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau has resulted in an increase in services to the more than 50,000 veterans living in the County. He has received numerous accolades from veterans service organizations for his work, and is a recipient of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Jim became Mayor of the seaside community of Long Beach Township in 1964, and continues in that capacity today. He served as a State Assemblyman in the 1970s, and was Ocean County's Freeholder-Director in 1985, 1991 and 1994.

He is the Chairman of the Board of Southern Ocean County Hospital in Stafford Township, and is the Vice President of the Long Beach Island St. Francis Community Center Corporation.

Jim and his wife, Madeline, have nine adult children: Susan, Joseph, Nancy, Annmarie, Jane, Joan, James, Jr., Madeline and Henry, and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, On September 11, I will share a few laughs with my good friend, Jim

Mancini. But, all jokes aside, Jim Mancini is a leader for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration. Our communities thank him for his commitment to improving our quality of life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BAKERSFIELD SOUTHWEST BASEBALL TEAM

HON. BILL THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievement of a group of young people in my District. On the weekend of August 22, 1998 in Purcellville, Virginia, the Bakersfield Southwest baseball team completed a remarkable season and captured the 16-year-old Babe Ruth World Series championship.

We are thrilled with the great feats accomplished by this Bakersfield Southwest team. In the past four years, the Southwest team posted an amazing 55-4 record in the Babe Ruth league. In this year's World Series, Bakersfield was undefeated in winning the championship, which included a pair of two-hitters and a masterful shutout in the finale. Bakersfield Southwest also became the first team to win back-to-back World Series championships in their age group! All of this was done in a particularly special year for Babe Ruth baseball since 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the Babe's death.

But amidst all of these accomplishments, I am most proud of this team for the dedication and effort that they put into winning this second title. After winning the first, day in and day out, this team worked to correct mistakes and enhance skills. When I think of the way this team worked together, I remember the words of the immortal Babe Ruth: "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." Bakersfield Southwest had its collection of individual stars, but the team worked together, maximizing its many strengths. In all their effort and hard work, they epitomized the great American pastime we call baseball; they worked together, played together, and had fun together. I am sure that the skill and determination exhibited by this team will carry over to make them winners in life as well.

I would like to express my appreciation to Manager Dave Hillis for guiding this team, as well as Coaches Bob Soto, Ben Bradford, Mark Parker, and Ken Miller for all their fine work. Most importantly, I would also like to congratulate Spencer Bailey, Brian Bock, Clint Bradford, Tommy Brast, Travis Hamlin, Tony Hillis, Shaine Jensen, Darrin Levinson, Derick Martin, Ryan Mask, Soctt Mawson, Todd Sachs, Sean Sorrow, Ty Soto, Brent Warren, and Josh Wyrick for an outstanding season and a string of masterful years in the Babe Ruth League. Although I did not dye my hair blonde as was the team's trademark, I, like many others from my District, salute Bakersfield Southwest and thank the team for representing Bakersfield with extreme honor, dignity, and sportsmanship.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to 62 distinguished citizens of the Eleventh District of Virginia, the members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team. Called Virginia Task Force One, this brave team of men and women has served as our humanitarian diplomats to cities in crisis.

On August 7, 1998, the world was rocked by twin explosions. The American Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania were destroyed in tragic, unconscionably cruel bombings that took the lives of innocent East Africans and Americans. As we stared in numb disbelief at news reports that overflowed with heart-wrenching images and constantly rising death counts, Virginia Task Force One was already alerted and preparing for their daunting mission.

Within 12 hours of the bombings, Virginia Task Force One was fully mobilized for deployment to Africa. Less than 24 hours after the explosions, as many of us were still grasping to understand this tragedy, the team was en route from Andrews Air Force Base to Nairobi. Search and rescue technicians, cave-in experts, physicians, paramedics, logisticians, and command and control personnel comprised the 62-member Task Force, led by Battalion Chief Michael Tamillow and retired Deputy Chief James Strickland.

Virginia Task Force One worked tirelessly with search and rescue teams from Kenya and Israel, transforming the chaos of Friday into an orderly and systematic search for any survivors, and for key evidence to piece together the cause of the event. For the first several days of the rescue effort, team members ran two twelve-hour shifts to provide round-the-clock operations. The work was especially dangerous during the night, due to the poor light and danger of shifting debris. After they had gone through the entire debris pile, well ahead of schedule, and it was clear that they would find no more survivors, they ceased nighttime operations. Despite the grueling labor, dangerous conditions, and long hours, the members of the Task Force consistently reported that they were "in good spirits and . . . happy to be contributing to the effort."

Chief Strickland, co-commander of the mission, reported feeling a sense of déjà vu as he surveyed the wreckage in Nairobi. He compared it to the devastation he had observed when the Virginia Task Force assisted rescue efforts in Oklahoma City, after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. Nairobi was not the first or even the second scene of mass destruction heroically attended by the Fairfax County Team. As one of only two search and rescue task forces in the U.S. trained and authorized for overseas disaster deployment, Virginia Task Force One has been deployed to Armenia and the Philippines, as well as Oklahoma City and Kenya.

The men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search